

PATENTANWALT

DR.-ING. PETER RIEBLING

Dipl.-Ing.

EUROPEAN PATENT & TRADEMARK ATTORNEY

Patent Attorneys
Schulte, Roth & Zabel LLP
Attn. Mrs. Anna Vishev
919 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10022
USA

Postfach 3160
D-88113 Lindau (Bodensee)
Telefon (08382) 7 8025
Telefon (08382) 9692-0
Telefax (08382) 7 8027
Telefax (08382) 9692-30
E-mail: info@patent-riebling.de

August 12, 2003

O. B. SEP. 2003

Re : US Patent Application
Hydrodynamisches Drucklager
Minebea Co.,Ltd.
Your ref.: 57517-46
Our file : 16868.3-P807-nem

RECEIVED
SEP 12 2003
SCHULTE ROTH & ZABEL LLP

Dear Mrs. Vishev,

Referring to your letter dated July 24, 2003, please find enclosed the copy of an official search report from the German Patent and Trademark Office dated July 2, 2003, and the following cited references:

German Patent Application

DE 196 37 014 A1

(and an English translation of the abstract)

British Patent

GB 274,954

US Patent

US 5,357,163

Patent Abstracts of Japan

JP 2000-310220 A

Patent Abstracts of Japan

JP 2000-324753 A

Besides, we would like to inform you about the corresponding foreign applications in this case:

Japanese Patent Application (for further information contact Minebea Co., Ltd directly).

The priority was claimed from the German Utility Model Application 202 11 066.4.

Please contact us if you have any further questions to this case and confirm the receipt of this letter with enclosures by return a facsimile.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature consisting of several stylized, slanted strokes that appear to form initials or a name.

Encl.